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**IT'S
YOUR
VEHICLE
YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY**

IMPOUNDMENT

Road Safety

It starts
with you

**Don't let a suspended driver
behind the wheel.**

Check for a valid driver's licence.

PHONE: 1-900-565-6555

(\$2.50 per check)

TOUGH NEW MEASURES FOR SUSPENDED DRIVERS

Ontario's Vehicle Impoundment Program is aimed at making Ontario's roads safer. Starting February 16, 1999, vehicles driven in Ontario by persons apprehended for driving while their licence is suspended for a *Criminal Code* conviction will be impounded for a minimum of 45 days.

Drivers who continue to drive while their licence has been suspended for a *Criminal Code* conviction show no regard for the law and put others at risk. In 1996, more than 37,000 drivers had their licence suspended in Ontario for a *Criminal Code* conviction. Most of those convictions were related to drinking and driving. Other convictions included dangerous driving and leaving the scene of a collision.

HOW does the Vehicle Impoundment Program work?

A driver caught driving while his/her licence is suspended for a *Criminal Code* conviction will be given an Impound Notice (issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles) by an enforcement officer. The vehicle will immediately be towed to an impound yard for a minimum of 45 days. The vehicle owner must pay the towing and storage costs before the vehicle is released.



UNDER THE VEHICLE
WILL HAVE A GREAT
PERSON DRIVING IT

WHO can have their vehicle impounded?

Any person caught driving while suspended in Ontario for a *Criminal Code* conviction will have the vehicle he/she is driving impounded. Regardless of whether the vehicle is borrowed from a friend or family member, used for business or employment purposes, rented or leased, the vehicle will be impounded. This program applies to all motor vehicle types including passenger vehicles, motorcycles, trucks and buses.

HOW much will it cost to get my vehicle back?

Vehicle owners are liable for towing and storage costs which are expected to range from \$900 to \$1,100 for a 45-day impoundment period. In addition, suspended drivers may face fines ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 if convicted under the *Highway Traffic Act* for driving under a *Criminal Code* suspension.

CAN I appeal the impoundment?

Yes, a vehicle owner can appeal an impoundment on the following grounds:

- Vehicle was stolen at the time of the impoundment;
- Driver was not under a *Criminal Code* suspension;
- Vehicle owner exercised all reasonable efforts (i.e. due diligence) to ensure that the driver had a valid driver's licence; or
- Loss of the vehicle would result in exceptional hardship.

There is a \$100 fee to file an appeal. In the event of a successful appeal, this fee will be refunded, along with any towing and storage costs.

IMPOUNDMENT PROGRAM ALL VEHICLE OWNERS
ARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT EVERY
VEHICLE HAS A VALID DRIVER'S LICENCE.

DON'T RISK VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT

WHAT are my responsibilities as a vehicle owner?

You are responsible for taking all reasonable steps, depending on your particular situation, to ensure that every person who drives your vehicle has a valid driver's licence. To verify a valid driver's licence through the Ministry of Transportation (MTO):

- Call 1-900-565-6555 for an automated service. A cost of \$2.50 per check will be charged to your phone bill. Please have the driver's licence number ready; or
- Access MTO's website starting May 1999 at: www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/check.htm. Users may check more than one driver's licence number at \$2.00 per check payable by Mastercard or Visa; or
- Obtain a driver's abstract at MTO, Driver & Vehicle Licence Issuing Offices or ServiceOntario kiosks. The fee is \$12 per abstract.

WHAT information is provided by MTO's automated driver licence check services?

These services will provide information on the validity of a driver's licence as well as a verification number confirming a valid response. A valid response means that the driver's licence is not under suspension, is not expired, or has not been cancelled. This verification does not include class of licence or condition of driver licence.

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Using a Touch-Tone™ phone
(\$2.50 per check) or

Access MTO's website starting May 1999 at:

www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/check.htm

(\$2.00 per check)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 1-800-387-3445

OR (416) 235-2999 OR www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety

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